

Thanks to their hard work, the Commission has maintained and improved its high standard of professionalism in its interactions with town residents, other town boards and commissions, and state regulatory and enforcement bodies.

Pat Perry continues to do an outstanding job in her role of coordinating daily operations and the successes of the Conservation Commission are due in large part to her dedication and effort.

The Commission benefits from working with town departments, land trusts, associate members and the community. Your input and assistance are invaluable to the Commission. **THANK YOU!**

If you have an interest, expertise or experience in conservation or environmental protection and would like to be a member, an associate member or volunteer, please call the office at 897-8615 or attend a meeting. Meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark, Chair
David Coppes, Vice Chair
Douglas Moffat
Serena Furman
Cortni Frecha
Doug Morse

Rebecca Mattison, Associate
Jeff Saunders, Associate
Dwight Sipler, Associate
Adrianna Snow, Associate
Alexander Taft, Associate
Bruce Trefry, Associate

Joyce Bunce, Associate
Stewart Dalzell, Associate

Patricia Perry, Coordinator
Maureen Trunfio, Secretary

BOARD OF HEALTH

As the local permitting authority responsible for the health and safety of Stow residents, the Board of Health continues its service to the Town by insuring that our water, sanitation, habitation, and environment continue to meet the high standards set by those early pioneers who recognized that good health practices create positive outcomes for people and the environment.

Resignation of a Member

A longtime member of the Board, Sylvia Daley, resigned following the sale of her Stow home. Ms. Daley served the town well and will be missed. A former member of the Board, Gordon Landis, was appointed to fill the remainder of Ms. Daley's term.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

During 2012 we continued working with the Medical Reserve Corps and Fire and Police Chiefs, on the Town's Emergency Planning Program. Money from Emergency Preparedness grants distributed by the Department of Homeland Security come to the Town through the MRC to

allow planning, purchase, and storage of materials necessary in case of a natural or manmade disaster.

In November we held our regular seasonal flu clinic. This clinic is run as a drill to test our Emergency Dispensing Site plan under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security. 227 people attended the clinic. We wish to thank all of the MRC volunteers who stepped forward to help prepare for and run these clinics. Their willingness to donate their time and effort for the smooth running of this program is much appreciated.

Public Health Nurse

Town residents can connect with our public health nurse, Linda Cullen, every Wednesday from 9 AM to 12 PM. Her office is located on the third floor of the Town Building. She provides home visits, follows up with communicable disease reporting, helps with the clinics that the Board runs, interfaces with the Council on Aging and offers immunizations to town employees as needed. Linda continues to provide a valuable and much-needed service to the town. The Board appreciates the support it has received for this program from the residents of Stow.

Hazardous Waste and Recycling

The Board collaborated once again with the Stow Boy Scouts Troop 1 in the spring of 2012 for the electronics recycling program they were organizing. We encouraged the Town Municipal Offices to recycle many old computers and parts out of the Town Building where they were stored and donated money from the hazardous waste fund to the Boy Scouts for taking all of this old equipment. We continue to offer battery and mercury thermometer collections during our daily office hours. Our hazardous waste collection was held in April of 2012.

We instituted a collection/disposal program for hypodermic syringes, needles and lancets (collectively known as “sharps”), in July 2012, due to a new statewide ban on the disposal of sharps, including unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets in the trash. The Board of Health provides the sharps containers for a small fee and when the container is full, residents can return it to the Board of Health office for safe disposal and purchase another one.

Mosquito Control

The Town of Stow continues to belong to the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project to provide control of this pest, which is a carrier of such diseases as Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. The Project is committed to an Integrated Mosquito Management Program, which utilizes a variety of control techniques and evaluation procedures. The first and most permanent method is water management, source reduction or wetlands restoration. The second method is called larviciding and the third method is to attempt to control the adult mosquito by spraying. The presence of adult mosquitoes is confirmed before any application is done. All control efforts are undertaken only after surveillance data has been collected and analyzed. This allows control decisions to be made based on the exact need that exists at each specific site. Environmental considerations are paramount when prescribing various control techniques. The Project’s goal is to provide effective and environmentally sound mosquito control, reducing mosquito annoyance and the potential for the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

Animal Control

Ongoing repair work continued at the dog kennel under the supervision of Building Commissioner Craig Martin. Insulation, siding and storm windows were added as well as weather protection over the door and motion sensor security lighting. A portable air conditioning unit was purchased to aid in climate control during the hot summer months. The Animal Control Officer and the Animal Inspector continue to provide excellent coverage throughout the town with the ability to respond quickly to any situation. The following is a report of activity for the year 2012:

Dog Complaints	108	Cat Complaints	4	Wildlife Calls	66
Lost Dogs	48	Found Dogs	34	Cruelty/Neglect	3
Dead Animals on Roads	56	Lost Cats	20	Found Cats	11
Dogs Impounded	20	Livestock Complaints	8	Other	57

Citations Issued		25.00 Fines	15	100.00 Fines	4
Written Warnings	1	50.00 Fines	3	150.00 Fines	1
		75.00 Fines	5		

The following is the annual livestock count:

Cattle	14	Llamas	5	Goats	75	Pigeons	6
Swine	16	Alpacas	11	Sheep	36	Beehives	1
Rabbits	43						
Equine	130	Horses-102	Ponies -25	Donkey-3			
Poultry	653	Chickens- 585	Waterfowl-68	Game Birds- 24			

Quarantines are as follows:

Dog Quarantines 10 Day :	26	Cat Quarantines: 10 Day	2
Dog bite/scratch to another dog	11	Cat bite/ scratch to a person	2
Dog bite/scratch to a person	14	Cat 45 Day Quarantines: currently vaccinated with wound unknown origin .	8
Dog bite/scratch to a cat	1		
Dog 45 Day Quarantines: currently vaccinated with wound of unknown origin.	2	Cat 6 Month Quarantines: unvaccinated with wound of unknown origin.	2
		Dog 6 Month Quarantine: unvaccinated with wound of unknown origin.	1

Permitting & Revenues

Revenue of \$ 26,939.81 was remitted to the Town. The following is a list of permits issued:

Bed & Breakfast	2	Ice Sales	2	Pools	2
Beach	1	Stable Licenses	21	Dumpsters	12
Pet Shop	1	Septage Haulers	14	Rubbish Haulers	6
Cider Mill	3	Camps	4	Tobacco	7
Installers	32	Well Permit	24	Disposal Works	34

Food Service Permits: 59			
Restaurant	15	Residential Kitchen	6
Retail Food	3	Temporary	26
Ice Cream Truck	2	Seasonal	7

Total Permit Fees:	\$ 15,386.00
Other Fees Collected:	
Hazardous Waste Collection Donations	\$ 1,227.00
46 Soil Tests	6,670.00
76 Title 5 Reviews	2,150.00
Kennel	1,155.00
<u>Sharps Disposal, Recycling, Copies,</u>	<u>351.81</u>
Total	\$ 26,939.81

The public is invited to visit our office in the Town Building to learn what information we have available on public health, the environment, hazardous materials, and recycling. As always, we encourage you to call or visit if you have any questions, problems, or concerns. We are open from 8AM to 4PM Monday through Friday and by phone at 978-897-4592. Don't forget to visit us on the Town of Stow website. We post our meetings and information on special issues on this site. Visit us at www.stow-ma.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Cormier, Member
 Sylvia Daley, Member, resigned August
 2012
 Gordon Landis, Member
 Marcia B. Rising, Chair

Cynthia Colosi, Administrative Assistant
 John P. Wallace, Health Agent
 Susan Latham, Animal Control Officer
 Phyllis Tower, Animal Inspector

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board of Appeals conducted hearings on applications for four Special Permits, two Special Permit alterations and three Variances. One of the hearings concerned the Fire Department's new communication antenna tower that has now been installed at the Fire Station, replacing the one damaged by the 2011 Halloween storm. An application for variance filed by Linear Retail was granted for the new signs at the entrances to the shopping center.

The appeal in U. S. District Court by Star Tower/T-Mobile of the denial of a cell tower on the Wedgewood Pines Country Club property off Harvard Road has not been completely resolved. A settlement agreement, ordered by the Court, had been reached to vacate the Board's January 2011 decision regarding use and dimensional variances. At this writing, the Board is awaiting a final revised settlement agreement document to be filed with the Court.

The appeal of the Plantation II Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit granted in 2010 for 37 units of supportive housing is continuing.